

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Friday, March 15th, 2013
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Douglas Keck, and I am a pediatric dentist member of the Connecticut State Dental Association. I have practiced pediatric dentistry in Connecticut for twenty one years in New Haven and Madison. In addition to my private offices, I have worked at Yale-New Haven Hospital as a dental resident instructor in both the pediatric and general practice dental residency programs for the past twenty years. I am a HUSKY/Medicaid provider and have assisted Head Start Programs throughout the state in finding a “dental home.” I am writing to you in favor of Senate Bill 993 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary is a model which exists in forty four states, the District of Columbia, the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, and the U.S. military. The use of EFDAs has been shown to improve efficiencies in the delivery of dental care, while maintaining the quality of that care. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry also encourages the greater use of expanded function dental assistants/auxiliaries under the direct supervision of a dentist to help increase volume of services provided within a dental home, based upon their proven effectiveness and efficiency in a wide range of settings. The educational process for EFDAs is cost effective and individualized, to provide the proficiencies necessary for various practice settings.

Last year I was a participant in the work group which the Department of Public Health assembled to study scope of practice requests for dental hygienists and dental assistants. The report from the DPH which came out of this group was very favorable towards the development of an EFDA program and certification process in Connecticut. I believe that is time to pass legislation establishing an Expanded Function Dental Assistant during this legislative session.

I respectfully encourage you to support Senate Bill 993, and thank you for your time.

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